parks in front of a general merchandise store across the street from the busy marketplace. The wooden benches of the bus are often full an hour before it departs, but the conductor continues to appeal to passers-by for more fares. Finally the crowded bus leaves but circles hopefully around the marketplace in search of a few more passengers. 494 484

There is an excellent paved road from Dumaguete to Bacong poblacion so the driver races along the highway, honking furiously at the two-wheeled tartanillas with their little ponies hauling passengers or firewood to the city. Outside of Dumaguete the bus passes a muscovado sugar mill, a relic of the past, that makes the unrefined brown sugar that most barriofolk buy. [263] In Negros, "Sugar Bowl of the Philippines," refined sugar is too expensive to be used by the majority of the rural people. Stilted bamboo and nipa-roofed houses line the road with gay potted plants in the windows. Copra, shelled corn or palay may be drying on woven buri mats along the roadside; over the rickety bamboo fences hangs the family wash. To the east through the dark green of coconut groves is the blue sea, and beyond lies Siquijor Island.

The bus passes through Bacong poblacion with its plaza, little kiosk (bandstand) and white-washed statue of Jose Rizal, the "George Washington" of the Philippines. The marketplace is filled with people buying and selling. Small groups are having morning coffee and bread;

GUHANG

Of all the "cash crops" of Caticugan guhang is probably the major source of cash income for the largest number of families. The fermented sap of the buri palm (Corypha elata Roxb.) is the source of guhang. Though much as been written about making tuba (from the sap of the coconut tree) there are fewer accounts of making guhang. One poblacion wit said the name of the drink came from the desire, after excessive drinking, "to go hang yourself." Brown states:

> This [the buri] is the largest and most stately palm found in the Philippines. Its straight trunk attains a diameter of one meter and height of 20 meters...The plant grows 25 to 30 or more years, during which time large quantities of starch collect in the trunk. It then flowers once and dies...[54]

Besides being the source of guhang the buri has many other uses in the Philippines. The palm is the source of alcohol, vinegar and sugar, all made from the sap while the trunk yields large quantities of starch. The edible kernels of the fruit are used to make sweetmeats. The immature unopened frond is utilized in many parts of the archipelago to manufacture mats, sails, bags, while the buri's petiole yields the so-called Buntal fiber from which the famous hats of Baliuag and Lucban are woven.[55] Barriofolk in Caticugan do not make sugar from the buri's sap, although flour was extracted from the

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[54] Brown, op. cit., I, p. 284.

[55] Brown, op. cit., I, pp. 286-95.